



## **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – January 6, 2015**

### **FirstNet News**

- This week, FirstNet will be presenting at the NTCA Rural Broadband Association Wireless Symposium and at the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association board meeting.
- The first 2015 quarterly SPOC webinar is 1/8 from 2-3:30 pm EST. Key topics include summary of the RFI and public notice responses, FirstNet NEPA and NHPA compliance, and an update from the technical team. Kristi Wilde has emailed the details.
- Nevada's initial consultation meeting is 1/7. Other confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings are: Colorado (1/14), Kentucky (1/28), Texas (2/11), Delaware (2/19), Wyoming (2/25), Arkansas (3/4), Massachusetts (3/12), Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), North Carolina (4/23) and South Carolina (4/29).
- To date, FirstNet has received completed state consultation checklists from 43 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- NTIA is accepting applications for the following vacancy which closes January 15:

Executive Director (ES-0301-00)

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

Location: Reston, VA

SES vacancy announcement: [NTIA-2015-0003](#)

Please refer to the "How To Apply" section of the vacancy announcement for instructions on application procedures and required documentation.

- The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) announced plans to host a national forum on CyberSecurity for Emergency Communications March 2-4 in California. iCERT will convene this event to foster examination, coordination and collaboration on matters of information and communications security related to public safety and emergency communications systems in the near term and into the future. TJ Kennedy and Ed Parkinson will participate in this event. Public sector stakeholders are invited to attend and while there is no fee, space will be limited. [Visit the iCERT website](#) for more information.

## **From the States and PSAC Organizations**

- Last week, New York launched a new public safety broadband website: <http://psbb.ny.gov>. The state intends to utilize this website as part of their outreach efforts, including background information, a calendar of events and news items.

## **Media Watch**

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### *Traditional Media*

As expected, media coverage continued to be down again this week. Published articles included several public safety vendor industry analyses and opinions, rural broadband, and other local news about FirstNet progress in their state/territory. Additionally, several reposts of the recent NTIA SLIGP grant article were posted on numerous trade publication websites.

## **Urgent Communications: A look back at the Top 10 stories of 2014**

<http://urgentcomm.com/motorola-solutions/look-back-top-10-stories-2014>

“FirstNet gets five new board members; Dowd, Fitzgerald not reappointed” – This year saw much change in the leadership of FirstNet, from the top paid position within the organization to the board that governs it. In September, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny

Pritzker appointed five new members to the board, but that slate of appointments did not include Charles Dowd and Paul Fitzgerald, even though both said they wanted to stay. Sue Swenson became the chair in May; Jeff Johnson was tapped as the vice chairman in early December. The quest to find Bill D'Agostino's permanent replacement is underway, with applications due on Jan. 15.

### **Mission Critical Communications: SLIGP Recipients Reach Out to State Stakeholders**

[http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news\\_id=11551](http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=11551)

"The \$116 million in grants are helping states as they conduct outreach with public safety and state and local officials to determine their needs, gaps and priorities for public safety wireless broadband and to prepare for formal consultations with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), which is developing the public safety broadband network," according to a blog written by Mike Dame, program director of the SLIGP.

### **Des Moines Register: Digital divide is key issue for Iowa lawmakers**

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2014/12/30/broadband-expansion-iowa-legislature/21079385/>

One of Sodders' ideas is converting the Iowa Communications Network into a FirstNet program, which has been authorized by Congress to provide emergency responders with a nationwide, high-speed broadband network dedicated to public safety. The FirstNet initiative, which will be eligible for federal funds, can include the National Guard, law enforcement, and Iowa's courts. He said hospitals and schools and some others now served by the Iowa Communications Network can be switched to private broadband providers.

### **Puget Sound Business Journal: New funds, landslide maps proposed as a result of Oso slide**

<http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/blog/2014/12/new-funds-landslide-maps-proposed-as-a-result-of.html>

The committee's final report, released Dec. 15, made 17 recommendations. They include a landslide risk mapping program, designing a first responder network authority and establishing adequate funding in the state disaster response account.

## **Satellite Today: CalAmp Satellite Revenues Decline, Wireless Datacom Buoy Earnings**

<http://www.satellitetoday.com/technology/2014/12/30/calamp-satellite-revenues-decline-wireless-datacom-buoys-earnings/>

“There are some interesting opportunities in our pipeline as it relates to public safety product demand driven by FirstNet infrastructure rollouts. This year has obviously been a dormant year in that regard but I think we are increasingly optimistic that FirstNet will be a demand driver for high-end mobile router products and potentially some services as we enter the new fiscal year,” said Burdick.

## **RCR Wireless: Sonim tackles the ruggedized smartphone market**

<http://www.rcrwireless.com/20141230/devices/sonim-tackles-the-ruggedized-smartphone-market-tag2>

Bob Plaschke, president and CEO of Sonim, provided some insight into how the company has seen the market for ruggedized devices evolve, including the importance of carrier relationships, which Plaschke said was “critical.” Plaschke also noted that the increased attention being paid toward the public safety community and ongoing FirstNet plans has opened up new avenues for the ruggedized device market.

## *Social Media*

Social media discussions focused on Public safety apps, Consultation, Rural Coverage, SLIGP grants, 2014 in Review, New Mexico BTOP. The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 1,376 followers, and the LinkedIn account has more than 419 followers. Our blog posts from this week can be found at: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>.